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# SPRUCE BARK BEETLE NEWS



REGION ONE

Missoula, Montana

September 17, 1953

No. 5

LOLO SMOKE RINGS Fires took precedence over the beetles for several days during August. But the fires were not in the right place. The fires on Indian Ridge, Cedar Log, and Edith Peak burned in uninfested instead of infested spruce.

Dick Carter would like to be hunting right now while making the detection surveys because he is seeing plenty of game.

ST. JOE'S HOMESTEAD SPRUCE ROLLS When Jack Root and crew cleaned up after the final rock blast on September 10 on the new construction on the Marble Creek road, a string of trucks loaded with the first infested spruce from Homestead Creek were waiting to use the new road. The road was opened at noon and the trucks rolled out with their loads of spruce. Hauling will continue at the rate of about 100,000 board feet per day until stopped by snow.

## SCORE BOARD - INFESTED SPRUCE LOGGED

<u>Forest</u> (From National Forest Land)	1952 Production Year 1/ (July 1, 1952 - June 30, 1953)	1953 Production Year 1/ July 1, 1952 to August 29)	LAST 2 WEEKS (Aug. 30 to Sept. 12)
	<u>Million Board Feet</u>	<u>Million Board Feet</u>	<u>Million Board Feet</u>
Cabinet	0.8	0.6	0.4
Clearwater	0	0	0
Flathead	2.4	2.2	0.4
Kaniksu	6.5	5.8	1.5
Kootenai	57.7	12.4	5.9
Lolo	1.7	2.9	2.8
St. Joe	7.2	5.0	2.1
Subtotal	76.3	28.9	13.1
<u>All Other Ownerships</u>	18.7	13.7	2.8
GRAND TOTALS	95.0	42.6	15.9

1/ Formerly called "flight year". It was changed to "production year" to avoid technical difficulties with the actual flight period which begins in May and lasts for only about five months. Each production year is principally concerned with the spruce infested the same year.

KANIKSU REPORTS Robert Porterfield, Tom Bolin, four cruisers, and a cook are starting the last planned operational survey of the season. It will cover spruce stands between Continental Mountain and Upper Priest River. They are packing in, will establish a camp, and it will take about three weeks to complete the job. There will be a nip in the air and some of the white stuff all around by that time.

All Kaniksu infested spruce sales offered to date have been sold. In addition they hope to sell the following:

Myrtle Creek	3,000,000 BM	(All species)	Opening date	September 14, 1953
Porcupine Creek	5,500,000 BM	(All species)	Opening date	September 14, 1953
Rattle Creek	10,000,000 BM	(All species)	Opening date	September 21, 1953
Snow Creek	12,500,000 BM	(All species)	Opening date	September 28, 1953

Another sale is being prepared that may run to 20,000,000 board feet in Myrtle Creek. This timber will come out over the new spruce access road.

Sandpoint Ranger District is as busy as a bark beetle these days. Ranger Meneely says that about 300,000 board feet of spruce has been hauled out each day for several months. The operators are really hitting their stride now. About a half million of national forest spruce and a like amount of private spruce is trucked out each day. It is exciting to drive up Pack River. Forty logging trucks make two or three trips per day over this road. Meneely says that one morning he met seventeen loaded trucks in driving to the head of Pack River and spent more time backing up than going ahead.

The Thompson Lumber Company was awarded a sale on Snow Creek on August 17. They plan to take out the first load of spruce September 12. Over one-half million will be logged yet this season. A small sale of 50,000 board feet of spruce at the Twenty-Mile Cabin about 8 miles east of Naples found a buyer. He is operating now. The Pike Lumber Company has completed their road on past Beehive in the head of Pack River. They are logging about 100,000 board feet per day.

Ranger Meneely states that there is an outstanding increase of bugs in McCormick Creek this year. The Bureau of Entomology survey found five bug trees this year to one last year, which is the worst they have reported. A sale of all national forest spruce has been made. Most of the timber is privately owned.

Millard Evenson was out in the woods the other day looking over an access road with Lynn Tingey, the Bureau of Public Roads, District Supervisor. In the discussion about the hurry for spruce roads, Mr. Tingey said, "Some difference between now and before BB days." Of course an inquiry was made as to what the BB stood for. "Beetle Bug" was his answer. All events on the Kaniksu are now referred to as being before or after "Beetle Bug."

KOOTENAI NEWS Some of the trap trees in O'Brian Creek are skidded a mile to the landing. A Forest Service tractor is working on this job. Martin Redlinger is in charge. Probably due to the trap trees there are few new hits in this area.

The Keeler Creek sale, Rubier & Sons, loggers, is turning out some nice spruce. One tree was 5 feet on the stump and scaled 7,000 board feet. It was 4 feet at the top of the first 32 foot log. Sixteen foot logs were cut in the woods because



the cut-off saw at the mill could not cut such large timber. In June 139 trap trees were felled on this sale. They are being logged along with the newly infested spruce. About a million board feet of infested spruce will be taken out altogether.

F. B. Mitchell and a ten-man crew are treating trap trees on Rock, Wolf, and Elk Creeks.

Giles McHenry, resident engineer, and Lawrence Farnsworth, assistant, report a 3.06 mile section of the Clarence Creek road, Halvorson Bros., Jerome, Idaho, contractor, is completed ready for hauling. This road will provide access to infested spruce, six million of which is being advertized for sale. One operator in Bluesky Creek on the Fortine District is suspending operations, at least temporarily. This will reduce the cut of infested spruce about 300,000 board feet per week. Smokejumpers Sigler, Kelley, Hoskinson, and Halloran recently made a gypsy trip (sounds like fiddle music and dancing girls, but isn't - you carry your own bed and board, if any) into the Cabinet Mountains Primitive Area. They made a detection survey up Flomer Creek and down Cedar Creek. They found an average infestation of 24 percent by volume and sampled an estimated total volume of 40,000,000 board feet of spruce.

THE WOODPECKER STORY The most important woodpecker for control of spruce bark beetles in north Idaho and western Montana appears to be the black-backed three-toed woodpecker with the yellow top knot. The northern and Rocky Mountain hairy woodpeckers are also known to be beetle killers in this region. It is a fortunate circumstance in the control of the spruce beetle in this and other regions that bark beetles are the principal food of woodpeckers during the fall and winter months.

The nesting habit of the woodpeckers in Colorado, where they have been studied intensively because of their importance in controlling spruce bark beetles, is to lay their eggs in May or June. The eggs hatch after an incubation period of 16 to 18 days. The young birds remain in the nests about three weeks. After another week of feeding by the parents the young start to shift for themselves. This would be about the first part of July. The young birds do not raise a family until the following year. Woodpeckers raise only one family a year but with an ample food supply families tend to be larger and survival is high.

It was found in Colorado that a woodpecker's crop holds about 20 to 25 beetle larvae with a high of 34. An adult woodpecker consumes approximately 100 beetles per day for about six months during fall and winter and then about 50 per day for the remainder of the year. At this rate each one disposes of 25,000 to 30,000 beetles in a year. One woodpecker could, for example, eat about 500 beetles from each of 60 infested spruce trees in a year.

On June 16 this year Dave Scott and Don Matthews saw a Rocky Mountain hairy woodpecker feeding its young within a dead spruce snag on the Lolo Forest. Who has another record of woodpeckers nesting in a spruce stand? Please send in your observations.

RECENT ROAD BID OPENINGS Bids have been opened and awards recommended for spruce access roads as follows: Burnt Creek - Coal Creek, 7.5 miles August 26 to James Crick and Sons, Spokane; Graves Creek - Trail Creek gravel 8.9 miles August 27, to O'Brien Construction Company, Great Falls. These two roads are on the Kootenai National Forest. Pierce - Kelly Creek, Clearwater National Forest, 2.6 miles September 8 to Eagle Construction Company, Boise. Lower Crooked Fork 6.0 miles to Ed Tangmo, Milltown, Montana. Papoose Creek 8.0 miles to Osberg Construction Company, Seattle. These last two roads are on the Lolo National Forest and the bids were opened September 10. They are jointly financed with the Northern Pacific.

LUMBER JOURNALS RUN EDITORIALS ON INSECT CONTROL "Let's Get After The Bugs" was the title of an editorial in the Timberman for September. It closes with this statement:

"Pest control is not a short time program. As long as we have large stores of over-ripe old growth timber we will be confronted with the problem. The job is clear cut. We need to define its purpose and methods, consolidate the facts we know with those we do not know, and get to work on the job."

"More Realistic Approach Needed As Insects Emerge As No. 1 Killer" This is the heading on an editorial in the August Lumberman.

These editorials are evidence of the growing concern about the control of forest insects and disease.